

Amitai Regev



Editorial

Editors' Preface

This issue is in honor of Amitai Regev on his 65th birthday, and is edited by Allan Berele and Yuval Roichman. It is at Doron Zeilberger's suggestion that this issue was initiated and we thank him, Joseph Kung, and the members of the editorial board for this opportunity to pay tribute to Amitai. We also happily thank the authors and referees who contributed to this special issue.

Amitai Regev was born on a kibbutz in Israel and attended the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He earned his Ph.D. with distinction in 1972 under S.A. Amitsur for the thesis "Existence of Identities in $A \otimes B$." He held visiting positions at the University of California, Los Angeles (1972–1974), University of Chicago (1974–1976), University of California, San Diego (1978–1979), and Brandeis University (1982–1983). From 1978 until the present, Amitai taught at the Weizmann Institute, where he was department chair from 1999 to 2002 and is now the Herman P. Traubman Professional Chair of Mathematics; in addition he had an appointment as professor at Pennsylvania State University from 1984 to 1999. He was the advisor of Yoav Dvir and Tamar Seeman.

Although neither of us was officially Amitai's student, he helped both of us from the time we were graduate students and continuing to the present. Amitai gave the first editor the idea for his thesis, worked with him on his post-doc and many times subsequently, and generally served as an example of what a mathematician should be.

Looking at the papers in this issue, two aspects of Amitai's work stand out. This issue brings together papers from leading mathematicians in disparate fields, especially the theory of algebras with polynomial identities and algebraic combinatorics. Amitai's work has spanned not only these but also real analysis, probability, number theory, Lie algebras, and especially representation theory. The other aspect of Amitai's work reflected in the current issue, is the pioneering nature of Amitai's work. Many of the papers here are based on Amitai's results and deal with Amitai's questions, or even work in areas that Amitai created. Most notably, Amitai initiated the study of cocharacters of algebras with polynomial identities, which grew to be one of the most important tools in that field, as well as a bridge to other branches of mathematics.

Amitai, we look forward to learning from you *ad me'ah v'esrim shana*.

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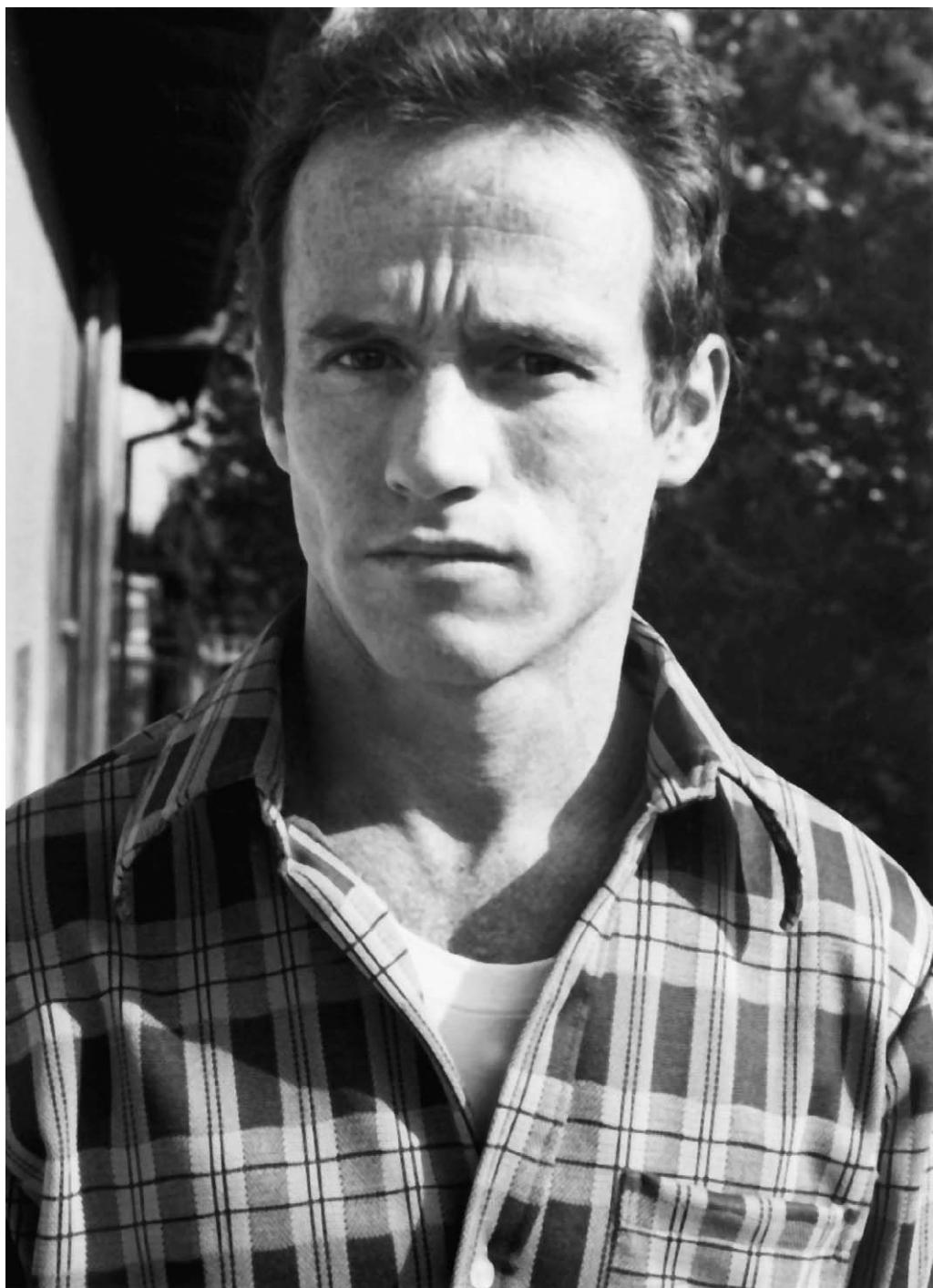


Fig. 1.